

Oconee Broadband Technology  
Opportunities Program (BTOP)  
Grant Submission

By  
Oconee BTOP Team

What & Why BTOP for Oconee

- May 2009 study of Pickens, Anderson, and Oconee (ACOG & iDesign Nine)
- Link all county, city, and school facilities together to give high-speed network between all (each will have their own network)
- Not to compete with ISP/Telco providers (i.e. AT&T). Focus is to provide connectivity in places where **NO** ROI for companies to install broadband
- Model Lumpkin county GA \$33M award
- Too many single points of failures in current ISP model – 1 dig all down

## Benefit to Oconee

- Equal opportunities for broadband access for all Oconee citizens.
- 15% increase in home broadband connections (Pew Group)
- Create redundant loops to ensure city, county, and private access availability
- Link schools & libraries to allow larger transfers of data
- Ability to provide more public "hot-spots"
- Redundancy for public safety networks
- Uses renewable Green Resources (Glass fiber)
- Bring tech jobs for people who want to live in the land between the lakes
- Bring business to I-85 area of Oconee

## Plan & Cost

- Application submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>
- 20% + matching funds required; although funding is not require at project start. Must show ability to raise 20%
- Engage local business, local leadership, and telecom business to raise 20%+ match.
- Create sustainable financial model for core infrastructure ongoing support
- Tie into C-Light System and National Lambda Rail for High Speed Internet access
- Develop needs assessment model for Oconee County (i.e. cell phone & broadband coverage)

## Staff Recommendation

1. Team to continue developing a plan for broadband usage in Oconee.
2. Permission to submit application for March 15, 2010. Per agreement among Team members (including outside Steering committee).
3. Any additions to Steering committee

## Backup Slides

## Oconee BTOP Team

Kim Wilbans (Grant  
Administrator)

Mike Powell (IT)

Kendra Brown (Finance &  
Steering Member)

Jim Alexander (Econ  
Development)

Richard Ellison (Last mile &  
Steering Member)

Gary Smith (Fiber Engineer)

Thomas Alexander (Steering  
Member)

TBD (Oconee Schools)

Mack Kelly (Engineering)